

REMARKS

The Official Action of 8 March 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended more clearly to distinguish over the cited art by reciting that pellets of the composite polyamide 11 resin (“the second material (B)”), prepared by adding an olefin elastomer to polyamide 11 resin, and pellets of the first material **(A) are separately formed before** mixing of the first and second materials. This is in accordance with the description in the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 16-20. The claims as amended also recite that the impact resistance layer formed from this mixture has an impact resistance that is greater than the impact resistance of a layer formed from the second pellets alone. This is described in the Examples in the specification, as discussed below.

New claims 7-8 have been added more completely to describe the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. Support for the recitations in new claim 7 appears in the specification as filed at, for example, page 3, lines 11-13. The recitations in claim 8 correspond with the recitations formerly in claim 6 (now canceled) and are further supported as discussed above.

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable

over Tanaka in view of Venkataswamy or over this combination of references further in view of Kito and/or Ito. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The impact-resistant resin layer as claimed is not just a mixture of polyamide 11 resin and olefin elastomer, i.e., the polyamide 11 resin mixed with the olefin elastomer does not directly form an impact-resistant layer. Rather, in the claimed invention, the second material (B), prepared previously in pellets, is mixed with a previously pelletized first material (A) **such that it becomes possible to distribute uniformly the olefin elastomer within the polyamide 11 resin.**

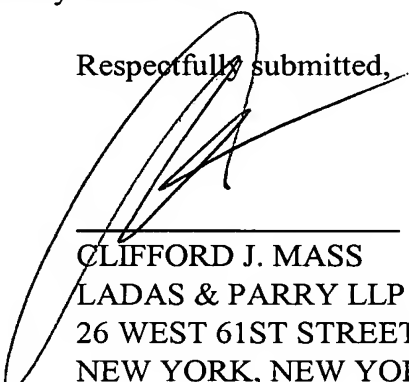
The claimed invention is based at least in part upon Applicant's discovery of the criticality of forming the recited impact resistant layer in the claimed manner and of the result effective nature of the recited parameters regarding the amounts of the respective first and second materials and the layer thickness. This is shown by the Examples in the specification at pages 6-8 and Fig. 6. Specifically, from these Examples, it may be seen that the Example according to the claimed invention, comprising an impact resistant layer formed from a mixture of 25 to 35% by weight of a previously prepared composite PA 11 resin (second material B) with a previously prepared PA 11 resin (first material A), had greater impact resistance (1) than the impact resistant layer formed, for example, from the second material (B) alone at a thickness in the range of 0.7 to 0.9mm (compare reference numerals 3 and 6 in Fig. 6), and (2) than the impact resistance layers formed by a mixture of the composite PA 11 resin (second material B) in higher weight ratios with respect to the PA 11 resin (first

material A) in the recited range of thickness (compare reference numerals 4 and 5 with reference numeral 6 in Fig. 6). The Examples in the specification thus establish the criticality of the claimed formation process and the result-effective nature of the claimed variables.

In contrast, the cited references do not show or suggest that the claimed method of forming the recited impact resistant layer would result in the layer having greater impact resistance or the result effective nature of the recited variables. In the conventional case, polyamide 11 resin would be mixed with olefin elastomer directly to form the impact-resistant layer. Indeed, there is nothing in the cited references that would show or suggest that the second material (B) should be separately prepared and then mixed with the first material (A). Moreover, there is nothing in the cited references to show or suggest the result-effective nature of the recited variables. See MPEP 2144.05(II)(B) (“A particular parameter must first be recognized as a result-effective variable, i.e., a variable which achieves a recognized result, before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation.”).

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art does not set forth even a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the invention as claimed and that all rejections and objections of record have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, the application is respectfully believed to be in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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